

# APPENDIX: Alexander McCartney Investigation Timeline

## January 2016 - March 2018

### 28 January 2016

McCartney's home address is searched and 10 digital devices seized. In the following days indecent images of children (IIOC), were found during an initial triage of a mobile phone.

### 4 February 2016

McCartney arrested for making, and possession and distribution of IIOC. Taken into custody and interviewed.

### 5 February 2016

Released on police bail.

### 31 August 2016

Answered bail and re-bailed.

### 6 December 2016

Answered bail and re-bailed.

### 7 February 2017

Answered bail. Bail conditions lifted.

### 7 January 2018 - 18 February 2018

McCartney is in contact with a 13-year-old girl in Florida, who sends him a video of self harm and another explicit video. PSNI do not become aware of this until September 2018, when a laptop seized from his home is examined.

### 12 March 2018

PSNI receive information from NCMEC that McCartney had tricked a child in Lancashire into sending him an indecent image, then threatened to post it online. NCMEC also advise that IIOC had been uploaded from his home.

### 21 March 2018

Following the NCMEC notification, McCartney is arrested for a second time on suspicion of offences including making, possessing and distributing IIOC, blackmail and encouraging or assisting in the taking and distribution of IIOC. His bedroom is searched and eight more digital devices are seized. He is interviewed and released on bail the same day.

### 19 April 2018

Bail conditions lifted.

### 27 April 2018

McCartney is in contact with a 14-year-old girl in Los Angeles who sent him images involving self-harm.

## May 2018 - February 2020

### 7-11 May 2018

McCartney is in contact with 12-year-old Cimarron Thomas from West Virginia in the United States. Cimarron takes her own life less than an hour after the last contact.

### 16 May 2018

McCartney interviewed in relation to indecent images of children discovered on devices seized from his home on 28 January 2016. As well being interviewed about possession of IIOC, he is also interviewed for encouraging the taking, making and distribution of IIOC, as well as blackmail.

### 28 September 2018

A laptop (Laptop A) seized on 21 March 2018 was found to contain IIOC, as well as evidence that in January and February of that year McCartney had been in contact with an unidentified 13-year-old girl in Florida, during which the girl had sent him a video of self-harm and another explicit video (see above).

### 2 January 2019

Laptop A resubmitted to the Cyber Crime Centre with a higher priority to enable the production of an evidential report.

### 12 March 2019

Police Scotland advised the PSNI that a young person had received naked photos via Snapchat from a person whose internet address was linked to McCartney's home.

### 18 March 2019

McCartney arrested for a third time, before being released on 6 months bail with an additional condition – 'no access to the internet or any electronic device capable of connecting to the internet outside the University of Ulster in connection with studies.'

### 27 March 2019 - 6 June 2019

McCartney breaches his bail condition on multiple occasions, using University IT systems to access Facebook and WhatsApp, set up a PayPal account and send a payment to a person.

### 11 April 2019

Completion of forensic report on mobile phone seized on 21 March 2018.

### 30 July 2019

McCartney arrested for fourth time on suspicion of possessing, making and distributing indecent images of children, sexual communication with a child, inciting children under 13 and 16 to engage in sexual activity, intimidation to do an act and breach of bail conditions.

### 20 February 2020

Evidential report completed in relation to Laptop A, seized on 21 March 2018.